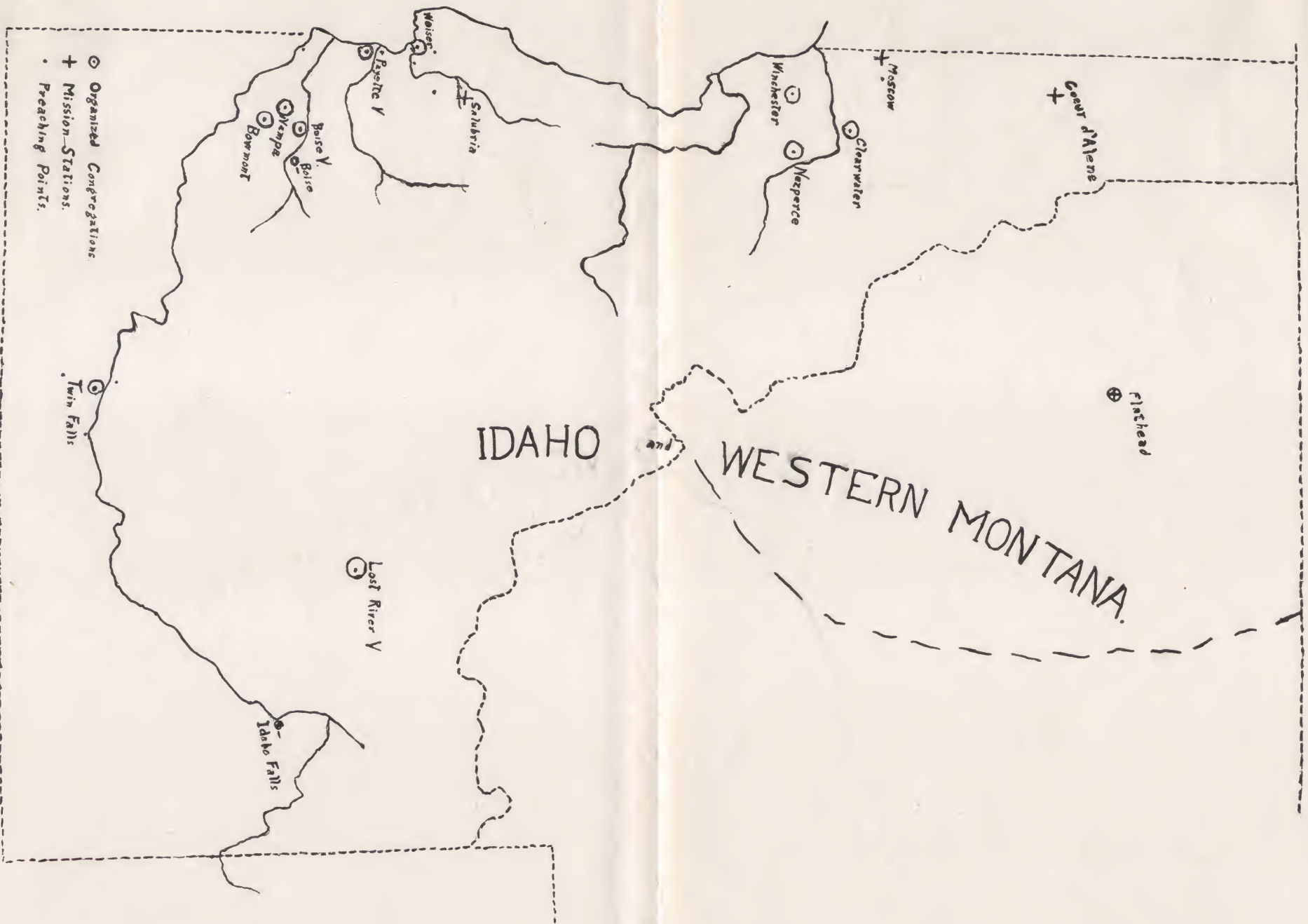


A Brief History of
**Idaho and Western
Montana**

As Settled and District Organized
by the Church of the Brethren





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IDAHO

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Published by the
MISSION BOARD of IDAHO AND WESTERN MONTANA
By Order of District Meeting
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PREFACE

This little booklet is the outcome of a demand, which has been developing all over the great Brotherhood, that a record of the settling and establishing of the several congregations of the State Districts be made and preserved for the workers of the coming church.

This demand so grew in Idaho that the District Meeting took up the proposition and appointed a committee to gather the data. In this early stage of the growing churches of Idaho and Western Montana it was not an impossible task to get nearly all of the earlier facts, and also the pictures of many of the members who, by settling in frontier territory, made an open way for Brethren to follow, until now well-organized and active congregations occupy this goodly land. Thus the booklet becomes an important historical record, an album of the pioneer workers of the church, and the expositor of the missionary endeavor of the great Northwest.

It was at the District Meeting, held at Portland, Oregon, that a committee was appointed to gather from the various churches accounts of the first settlement by Brethren, that the same might be published in convenient form for reference. Of this committee A. I. Mow was appointed the Idaho member. The question was again considered by the District Meeting of Idaho and Western Montana at its meeting at Nampa, Idaho, April 16, 1913, and the following resolution was passed:

"The Weiser church, in council assembled, March 15, 1913, asks District Meeting to authorize the publication of the matter relative to the early settlement and organization of the several congregations of Idaho, also including the organization of the State District of Idaho and Western Montana.

"(Signed, D. H. Holl, Clerk.)

"Answer: Passed; and committee of two appointed to act in this matter, to collect data as to cost, compilation, and publishing of same.

"Committee, A. I. Mow, B. J. Fike."

The committee has proceeded to revise matter already on hand and to collect what more it could and compile the material in the booklet herewith.

At the District Meeting held at Twin Falls, April 22, 1914, the committee reported its work. The report was so well received that District Meeting ordered the booklet published, and for that purpose placed all the work into the hands of A. I. Mow.

It seems good to us to take up the respective churches in the order in which they are enrolled in the District organization, and not in the order of their priority. We also include a map of Idaho and Western Montana, indicating the location of the congregations and points of mission work. The boundary lines are not easy clearly to define; but if we conceive that the organized churches occupy the territory of Idaho and Western Montana we will find nearly all with vast frontiers. We have not succeeded in getting as many good pictures as we would like to have.

A. I. M.

SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH OF THE CHURCHES

BOISE CITY.

The first services held at Boise by the Brethren were on Sunday, June 28, 1907, at the home of Bro. D. I. Stover, with sixteen present. Eld. Samuel Click conducted the services, assisted by M. R. Weaver, a young minister, who, with his wife, had a few months previous to this moved to Boise from Newberg, Oregon. Assisted by the Nampa brethren he continued to hold regular services each Sunday.

Other members present at this first meeting were: Brother and Sister Lewis Heaston, Brother and Sister Isaac Barklow, Brethren D. I. Stover and Elmer Redmon, Grandpa Beyer and Sister Grandma Stover.

At first the services were held in the different homes of the brethren, till in the fall, when a store building was rented in which to meet. At this time an evergreen Sunday-school was organized, with Bro. D. I. Stover as superintendent, Bro. Barklow assistant, and Bro. Redmon secretary.

April 12, 1908, eight were added to the little mission band by baptism. Those received into the church at this time were Brother and Sister George Stover, Brother and Sister Anderson and daughter Gladys, Sisters Kittie Stover, Lucy McLaughlin and Mae Weaver. In April of the same year Eld. J. A. Weaver and wife moved from Lordsburg, Cal., and helped with the work during the summer, but moved to Fruitland, Idaho, in the fall. In July the District Mission Board was petitioned to take this work in charge, which it did in August. Under the direction of the Mission Board Eld. L. E. Keltner and family moved from Twin Falls and aided in the work.

This group of members was regularly organized into the first church of the Brethren at Boise, Sept. 8, 1908. At this meeting an election was held for two deacons, the lot falling on three

brethren—D. I. Stover, Isaac Barklow and Elmer Redmon—who were regularly installed. This propitious beginning was favorable for happy progress. But many reasons appeared which obtruded in the way of success. In October, 1910, Eld. J. H. Graybill, under the auspices of the old Mission Board, took charge of this mission. But many of the members moved away, and the work lacking financial support, he resigned, and the organization was soon without a minister. After the segregation, and organization of the District of Idaho and Western Montana, the new Mission Board concluded to suspend that work for a while. This is sad, as there are still enough eager members there to form a good basis for continuing operations. During the five years of effort to maintain this work there was expended, approximately, two thousand dollars, besides much personal labor, time and expense. We pray the Lord that the good brethren may soon see fit to prosecute this work.

District Meeting of April 22, 1914, resolved to disorganize this church and sent a committee to carry into effect this decision.

BOISE VALLEY.

Boise Valley has her origin in the Nampa church; some of the brethren being among the founders of both churches. Her territory was segregated from that of the Nampa church June 30, 1906, and her members were organized July 2, with sixty-five charter members.

Eld. C. J. Fogle and wife came to Nampa in the fall of 1899, and located in the vicinity of the present Boise Valley church in the spring of 1900. He did the early preaching in the schoolhouses of this neighborhood. He closed his earthly ministrations May 4, 1902, and the services were continued by the ministers from Nampa until the new churchhouse was built.

Six ministers moved into this territory: David Betts, in the spring of 1900; Jacob Betts and family and S. S. Redmon and family, in the spring of 1901, and Eld. J. B. Shank settled at Notus in 1904. S. F. Brower and family in 1905 located at the place where the church was built the following year. J. F. Ulery came Feb. 2, 1909. These ministers and members labored faithfully, and their church work grew encouragingly. In 1906 they erected a modest and substantial churchhouse, 32 x 42 feet,



Sister Fogle.

Wife of Elder Caleb J. Fogle, and her granddaughter, Edna Betts. She was a pioneer with her husband in this great work of claiming the best of Idaho for the Brethren.

with a good basement. The lot on which it is built was the gift of a very generous brother, William Hollenberg, from Indiana, who also gave liberally toward its construction. Its cost, about two thousand dollars, was promptly paid, and the house was dedicated June 17. Regular preaching, Sunday-school and Christian Workers' Meeting services were at once installed.

Four deacon brethren moved in: Joseph Brown, William Stoner, David Gray and C. G. Stahl. Besides, Sept. 26, 1908, Bro. S. F. Brower was ordained to the eldership and S. A. Rhodes and G. W. Flory were elected and installed in the deacon's office. As members moved in and out it left the membership standing at about eighty.

This congregation had an enthusiasm for healthy progress, and labored prayerfully for spiritual growth. Besides their regular annual series of meetings they availed themselves of three special Bible terms. The first two were conducted by A. I. Mow and the third by Ellis M. Studebaker. They are energetic in Sunday-school work, studying and employing the latest



Boise Valley Churchhouse.

and best methods, keeping abreast with the best of Sunday-school movements.

Bro. J. F. Ullery was ordained to the eldership July 6, 1912, and this added much encouragement to the work. But to the disappointment and grief of this membership, May 9, 1913, as the result of a sudden attack of illness, Eld. S. F. Brower passed from these scenes of earthly labor to his rest above and crown of glory.

Eld. Ullery was asked to take charge of the church, which he did, and continues faithfully to discharge his duties.

CLEARWATER.

The Clearwater church, the house of which is located about five miles north of the station of Peck on the Clearwater River, had her beginning with the remnant of what was known as the Grafton church, early in 1903, when the following families from Illinois settled near the site of the present church: P. E. Carson (deacon) and wife, William M. Harlacher, wife and son, Sherman Stookey (minister, second degree) and wife, J. L. Carson and P. E. Harlacher and wife.



Brethren Churchhouse, Clearwater.

These found the membership (about fifteen) of what was Grafton very much scattered. This included Eld. J. N. Gwin, of Lewiston, about forty miles away, who then was in charge; and also A. H. Carson (deacon) and wife. As soon as all were settled they proceeded with regular services, and organized a Sunday-school.

The Clearwater church is on the Boise meridian, between Lewiston and Moscow. The boundary lines are not very well defined, as she is environed by great areas of unworked territory. This church has her early history in two periods.

First as Grafton Church.

April 10, 1890, Enoch Faw and wife, and their children, Sarena A. and Jacob W., pioneer members, settled at a point thirty-five miles southeast of Moscow. As a missionary, in the fall of 1892, Eld. Sidney Hodgden delivered the first sermon that was preached in this locality. Regular monthly meetings were now held here by ministers from Moscow. July 4, 1895, when, by baptism and immigration, the number was increased to twelve, the Moscow church held an election for a minister, resulting in the call of Enoch Faw, who, the following October,

was advanced. Early the next year Moscow gave permission to form this body of members into a separate organization.

The organization now comprised two ministers, two deacons and eleven other members. Eld. S. S. Barklow was asked to take charge. In the spring of 1897 all the ministers but one moved from this territory, thus leaving this whole field to but one minister, who, however, maintained appointments at four places. Members continued to come and go till, in 1902, most of the officials and many of the members had received their letters and moved away, leaving Eld. J. N. Gwin, a deacon, and his wife, and fourteen others.

There being no churchhouse at this time their services were conducted in a schoolhouse.

At the first council meeting, which was held in the spring of 1903, it was decided to change the name from Grafton to the Clearwater church. The first love feast was held in a schoolhouse July 4, 1903.

Oct. 20, 1904, one member was received by baptism. The same summer arrangements were made to build a churchhouse, which was dedicated Oct. 21, 1904. At a series of meetings, held in January, 1905, fifteen joined the church. In April, the same year, Bro. J. A. Harlacher was elected to the deacon's office.

Eld. Gwin in 1906 resigned the charge of this church, after which Eld. Johnson presided till in 1908, when Eld. N. S. Gripe, moving in, presided. Members came and went. Meetings were held, the Sunday-school flourished and the church grew and prospered. Our membership in 1908 rose to forty. Since that time, however, members have moved away, including the ministers, until at present our number is reduced to thirty-four and the preaching has to be supplied from elsewhere.

FARGO VALLEY.

The Fargo Valley church lies west of township three west, and south of the first standard parallel north, till to Snake River. The first members of this vicinity located in the Fargo Valley in 1907. Others have moved in each year since. In October, 1909, the building of a new churchhouse was begun. It was finished during the winter and spring and was dedicated April 24, 1910. Among the first members to settle were Samuel Bollinger,

a minister, wife and family, Jacob Wohlgamuth (deacon) and wife, O. E. Frank (deacon) and wife, Richard Evans and wife, George Zepp and wife, Ralph Evans, Lydia Bollinger and Catharine Bollinger. Bro. Bollinger worked diligently to keep this membership together, and to build up a healthy nucleus for an organized congregation. This effort was very much encouraged by the addition to the membership of seven who were baptized and one reclaimed. The preaching services and the Sunday-school are well supported by the people. They still, however, feel the need of more help, especially in the executive department, to make their work a complete success.

FLATHEAD VALLEY.

This church is situated in the northwest portion of Montana, on the forty-eighth parallel, and between the crest of the Rocky Mountain range and the eastern boundary of Idaho. It is the only congregation of the District outside of Idaho. It includes the towns Kalispell and Creston.

Members had moved in there, and a church was organized, probably as early as 1900. Several ministers took part in the work. Their labors consisted largely of holding the fort, which is a very important part in this frontier world, where members come and go. Eld. John Early was the pillar. He was the faithful shepherd to the flock, but has passed from this stage of mortal activities to the joys beyond. Bro. Levi Learn is the only minister-elect remaining in that territory. While the work had many discouragements, on account of members being widely separated, they proved very faithful in holding the organization together.

IDAHO FALLS.

Idaho Falls congregation lies between the Boise base line and the first standard meridian north, and between ranges 35 and 40 east.

The first members to settle in that part were O. W. Leavell and wife, W. D. Byer and wife, and Wm. Sutter and wife.

The first services were held by O. W. Leavell in the Swedish Mission church. Later services were held in the Swedish Library Hall. The congregation was organized in the Swedish



Brethren Churchhouse, Idaho Falls.
Sister S. I. Driver.

Mission house in the fall of 1904, with eleven members, including two ministers and two deacons, who were put into office that day. The membership grew till there were thirty, including the two ministers and seven deacons. This church built a fine new house in 1905 and at once paid for it. They conducted a flourishing Sunday-school and an interesting Christian Workers' Meeting. They progressed splendidly for five years.

But incident to the disposition to move on, the ministers and many of the members left and the work immediately declined, so that in 1909 only two very disheartened members remained. That is the sad ending of a great and good work.

Some of these members (Bro. Sutter, joined by S. I. Driver and R. I. Troup), in company with some from other places, moved into the Lost River country, farther west, and formed the Lost River congregation, with Bro. S. I. Driver as minister, and the churchhouse was receded to the Mission Board.

LOST RIVER.

Lost River lies between the sixth and seventh auxiliary meridians east, and between the Boise base line and the second standard parallel, north.

This church was organized in 1911, with Bro. S. I. Driver



First Congregation of Lost River Valley Church.

Their meetings were first held in the cabin back of the congregation. Bro. S. I. Driver, the minister, and his wife are seen in the doorway.

as minister and Wm. Sutter and R. I. Troup as deacons; thirteen members in all. The organization is at Leslie, where they have Sunday-school and preaching regularly; also preaching at Darlington, and a union Sunday-school.

The early Lost River services were for two years held in a log building, the very interesting picture of which is herewith given, when they were moved into the public schoolhouse, newly erected at Leslie. Bro. Driver was a faithful and efficient minister and leader till he recently left, when Bro. Isaac Thomas, from California, came to the brethren's assistance.

MADDEN VIEW.

Madden View congregation lies west of the Boise meridian and between the southern bounds of the Nampa church and Snake River.

C. A. Williams, a minister, and his wife were the first members to settle within this territory. They located there in November, 1908. During 1909 D. K. Hassock and wife, W. W. Parkerson and wife, Hunter Wesson and wife, E. M. Wine (deacon) and wife, and some others settled in this locality.

On the second Sunday in October, 1909, C. A. Williams, in



Brethren Churchhouse, Bowmont.

the Burnette schoolhouse, preached the first sermon and organized a union Sunday-school, of which Bro. E. M. Wine was elected superintendent. The services were continued there till the members succeeded in erecting their new churchhouse at Bowmont, which was dedicated March 24, 1912.

During the first year services were held twice a month, but since then regularly every Lord's Day. The Sunday-school is "evergreen."

This congregation was organized May 22, 1910, at the home of Bro. C. A. Williams. The charter members were: C. A. Williams (minister) and wife, E. M. Wine (deacon) and wife, W. W. Parkerson and wife, D. K. Hassock and wife, J. W. Blickenstaff and wife, P. C. Johnson and wife, J. H. Wesson and wife, E. J. Swartz (deacon), Ernest Fike, Rush Williams, Elan Williams, Ada Wine, Ernest Wine.

The congregation was enrolled at District Conference July 13, 1910. Bro. Williams, being the only local minister, attended to all the regular services until Eld. J. L. Thomas moved into the church, January, 1914.

The first love feast was held at the home of Brother and Sister Williams Oct. 12, 1910. No other ministers having come to their assistance, all the services were conducted by the home minister, which was most gratifying to all.



C. A. Williams and Family.

The erection of the churchhouse was a great joy to these brethren. The lot was donated by Mr. J. F. Baw. The members contributed liberally, and by doing their own work and soliciting some donations from the other churches the house was early and easily paid for, to the great happiness of the minister, who so faithfully gave himself to the cause. Late in June, 1914, this congregation passed a resolution, to be known as Bowmont church.

MOSCOW.

Moscow was the site of the first Brethren settlement in Idaho. As early as 1876 Thomas Stewart, his wife and three children, Abraham Stewart, wife and daughter, and William King (deacon) and wife located at Moscow. Two years later Eld. Isaac Hirshy and wife moved in, and the Moscow church was organized that year, by the assistance of Eld. David Brower, with seventeen members.

The members were happy and the church prospered. They built a house of worship in 1884 and strengthened their organization by calling more laborers to official positions.

The evil day, however, overtook them, when men of diverse opinions came in. The confusion wrought mischief and the sheep were scattered. In the year 1908 (?) the District Meeting of Oregon, Washington and Idaho sent a committee to

Moscow and disorganized the church. The house was sold for \$750 and the money was given to the Mission Board.

In 1909, according to a letter from a remaining deacon, there were still four members of the church dwelling there.

But other members soon appeared on the scene. They began to look each other up and to form some association, and the number grew. In 1911 Idaho was segregated from the combined District, and organized into a separate District. The committee on negotiation for Idaho agreed to assume for Idaho and Western Montana the payment of \$750 to the Moscow church when she should be reëstablished and wanting a house of worship. We little thought then how soon such a possibility might come about.

In 1911 there were found to be eleven members in and about Moscow. In February, 1913, the Mission Board employed Eld. Chas. M. Yearout as a missionary, to work several of the northern settlements, and among the rest, Moscow. At this writing, a year later, with those who came in and those who were baptized, there are twenty-five reported, and an organization is urgently prayed for. This shows well, and it is good. Moscow is a thriving, prosperous city of over five thousand population. They have no saloons, and they are a church-going class of people. The climate is salubrious, and splendid for grain, hay, fruit and cattle. The people are doing well, temporally and spiritually.

THE NAMPA CHURCH.

The Nampa church is located in the southern end of Canyon County, Idaho. Boise Valley church joins it on the north and west. Her churchhouse is in the city of Nampa.

Some time in the late nineties Sister Christena Fike, whose excellent photograph we have the pleasure of presenting herewith, settled in the vicinity of Nampa, she being the first of our members to move here. Others soon followed, among them J. H. Graybill who, in a rented house, in March, 1899, did the first preaching for the Brethren at this place.

Nov. 13 of the same year the Brethren met to organize. The following members were included in the organization: Eld. Caleb Fogle and wife, J. H. Graybill (minister, second degree) and wife, Geo. D. Fike (minister, first degree) and wife, C. V.



Nampa Churchhouse.

Whallon and wife, Harvey Hatfield and wife, Joseph Crill and wife, Christena Fike and Edna James.

Eld. Fogle was selected to take charge, and Brethren C. V. Whallon and Harvey Hatfield were chosen deacons. They and their wives were regularly installed.

The membership increased very rapidly and soon a churchhouse was being erected. It was filled to overflowing when it was dedicated in the spring of 1901. In 1904, the membership having increased to 200, and larger room being needful, the churchhouse was remodeled and extended, as seen in the accompanying picture. As a number of members settled to the north in the Boise Valley, additional meeting places were taken in and services were held at Franklin and Fairview, six and eight miles, respectively, out of town.

Soon these points became sufficiently strong, and it was considered well to segregate them and organize them into a separate church. (See Boise Valley.) This still left the mother church with a strength of 125 members, and a good constitution for work.

Again, two years later, another segment of twenty members of this church was organized in the city of Boise. (See Boise City.)

Nampa church is prospering. Notwithstanding many have



Sister Christena Fike.

First member of the Brethren to locate at Nampa. Her life of faithfulness was a benediction to her family and community.

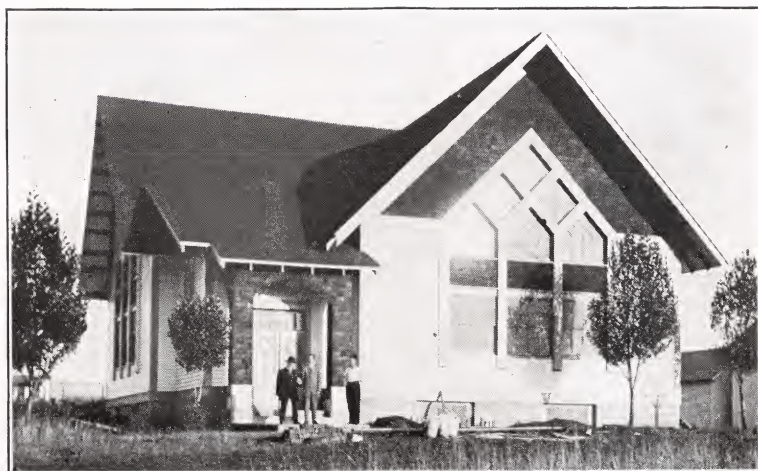
moved away and some have died, she still has a strong corps of members. She ordained two elders, J. H. Graybill and J. C. Neher, who in turn for several years served the church. Besides, they had three ministers—J. K. Waltman, Geo. D. Fike and C. A. Williams—and the following deacons: Hatfield, Whallon, Neher, Wolf, Wine, Emmert.

She carries on all the active services and church work of the Brethren, and enjoyed, in 1905, the luxury of a special Bible School, conducted by A. I. Mow.

NEZPERCE.

The territory of the Nezperce congregation lies between the Boise meridian, Clearwater River and Lawyer's Canyon. Physically it is a magnificent location for the Brethren. There are vast plains of the finest of agricultural lands in all the above-described territory and for miles adjoining it.

Bro. G. W. Thomas and wife were the first members to settle in this locality. They, with the following, were the seven-



Nezperce Churchhouse.

Their early churchhouse, becoming too small, was sold and this larger one built.

teen charter members of the organization, which was effected at the residence of Bro. G. W. Thomas, Nov. 17, 1897: Stephen Johnson and wife, Edith Johnson, Z. A. Johnson and wife, C. J. Fike and wife, Fannie Fike, Orpha Edmister and son, J. M. Cox and wife, C. F. Thomas, Levi Thomas and Sister Green.

Eld. Stephen Johnson was asked to take charge; G. W. Thomas was requested to be assistant minister. C. J. Fike and Levi Thomas were appointed deacons, C. F. Thomas, clerk, C. J. Fike, treasurer, and J. M. Cox, correspondent. Since then several of these members have died and others have moved away. This congregation, up to 1913, had called six brethren to the ministry: B. J. Fike, J. F. Edmister, J. S. Culp, W. C. Lehman, Arthur Brallier and Jesse Walker. All of these, except Bro. Fike, have moved away. He has been promoted to the eldership of the church, and is left alone in the service of the ministry.

Sister Lizzie Johnson led the first prayer meeting, in 1898. The first Sunday-school was organized in April, that year, and she was chosen superintendent.

The first love feast was held in Bro. Silas Johnson's barn Sept. 9, 1899. Preaching services were held in the town hall till a churchhouse, 32 x 40 feet, was built in 1900. The congre-

gation has increased in such numbers and strength that they built a very large and beautiful new house, which was completed in 1912. The membership west of the Boise meridian was divided and now forms the Winchester church, with Jesse Walker as minister.

PAYETTE VALLEY.

The Payette Valley congregation lies west of the Boise meridian, and between the first and second parallels, north.

The first members to settle in this territory were I. L. Harader, wife and son Edwin, in the spring of 1899. They were followed in November by Eld. Levi Whisler, wife and son Ezra, John Carl and wife, T. J. Beckwith (deacon), wife and son Harry. On the first Sunday of January, 1900, these families met at the home of Eld. Harader and organized a Sunday-school. Their first officers were: T. J. Beckwith, superintendent; his wife, assistant; Dora Harader, secretary; Edwin Harader, treasurer. They held their services at this home until warm weather came, when they decided to go into the shade of the trees. Later in the season, with cooler weather, they found it necessary to build a house in which to meet. In October such a house, 18 x 24 feet, was erected and served their need well. Eld. Fogle, of Nampa, was asked to assist them in organizing the church. This was done March 17, 1900. It was named the Payette Valley church, with the officers—I. L. Harader, in charge; Edwin Harader, treasurer; and T. J. Beckwith, clerk. In the evening of the same day this congregation held its first communion.

Before the next quarterly council six more members arrived, including Lemuel Pratt, a deacon, and by the end of the year the membership had increased to twenty-five, including Eld. John Garber and wife and Jeremiah Hoff (deacon). In 1900 one died and five moved away. During 1901 thirteen moved in, three were baptized, and six moved out, leaving twenty-nine. During 1902, fifteen moved in and two were baptized, making forty-six. During 1903 twenty-seven moved in, one was baptized, four moved away, two died, leaving sixty-eight. During 1904 three moved in, twenty-eight were baptized, twenty moved out, and one died, leaving eighty. During 1905 thirty-one moved in, twenty-seven were baptized, eight moved out, leaving 130. During 1906 seven moved in, thirty-four moved out, one died, leaving

100. Thus they came and went, till in 1914 the congregation included six ministers (four ordained), ten deacons and 124 members, with two churchhouses and a full line of services.

About two years later a very good churchhouse was built, which was the regular meeting place for the church until, as the membership mostly was located on the rich agricultural and orchard lands south of town, they built another and larger house in the vicinity of what they call Fruitland. This has become the regular meeting place, and is where the principal exercises of the church are held.



Brethren Churchhouse at Twin Falls.

TWIN FALLS.

Twin Falls is located between the second and third standard parallels, south, and townships 14 and 16 east. The main membership of the church is at Twin Falls, about five miles southwest of the Shoshone Falls, on Snake River.

The first members to settle here were J. E. Steinour and wife, at Murtaugh, in 1905; Sister Moon and Bro. H. A. Swab and wife, Twin Falls, the same summer.

The first services were held from Jan. 11 to 15, 1906, five at that time. Eld. L. E. Keltner was located here that year by the Mission Board, and in the fall of the same year the Board erected a churchhouse, which was dedicated Jan. 20, 1907. Feb. 3, 1907, the congregation was organized. For a short time before the church was finished the brethren held their services in the M. E. church. It was at the first council in 1907 that Bro. J. E. Steinour was called to be a minister and H. A. Swab was chosen a deacon. In the fall of 1907 Bro. S. S. Neher, then a minister, moved into the church, and March 6, 1908, Eld. C. Fahrney and Fred A. Flora (minister, first degree) arrived. In August of this year Eld. Keltner removed to Boise, and the local brethren took charge and conducted the work. The congregation now has an official body of two elders, five ministers and seven deacons. They maintain a full line of services, besides teacher-training and other Bible study classes. They conduct regular services at three points outside their city, and have members at Buhl and Hollister, seventeen and twenty miles, respectively, away. Twin Falls is a young and growing city; clean, sober and prosperous; surrounded by a fertile, rich and splendid agricultural country.

THE WEISER CHURCH.

In Idaho, from where the Snake River enters the bounds of the State, stretches a valley along the river westward and northward, descending and narrowing, until it ends in a deep canyon at the west boundary, 160 miles south of Lewiston. This valley, growing richer and more beautiful as it contracts and deepens, is the luxurious home of eight organized congregations.

In the extreme northern end of the valley is the Weiser church. We lie west of Boise meridian, and between the second and third standard parallels, north, adjoining the Payette Valley church, there being about sixteen miles between Weiser and Payette.

The first members to settle within our territory were our aged Brother Abraham and Sister Sarah Nodle, who located here



Weiser Churchhouse.



Abraham Nodle.



Sarah Nodle.

Bro. Abraham Nodle and his wife were the first members to settle in the valley, the home of the Weiser church, and were directly responsible for the planting of the church here.



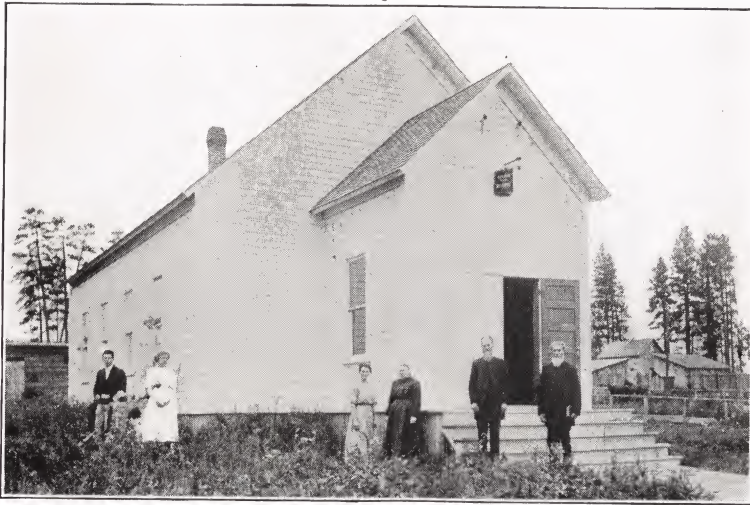
Chapel in Weiser valley in which the first services by the Brethren of Weiser church were held.

in 1897. They held their membership at Payette, and occasionally attended services there. The first meetings held and preaching done by the Brethren were on Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night, April 18 and 19, 1903, in the C. E. chapel, five miles northwest of Weiser, by A. I. Mow. He being well impressed with the country moved into the locality the same month. Services were regularly continued every Sunday and Sunday night during the summer. In October of that year the Mission Board of Oregon, Washington and Idaho took possession of the field. From this time the work was concentrated at Weiser. Members came, and by April 14, 1904, an organization was effected. The new congregation consisted of seventeen members, including three ministers and one deacon.

Sunday-school was in progress at two places before the organization. The one in town was strictly Brethren, while the one in the chapel, five miles out, was union. The winter following the organization, in order to give all the strength to the work in town, the outside school was dropped. Other members continued moving in and the strength of the congregation increased.

During the winter of 1906-07 preparations were made to build a new churchhouse, which was finished and dedicated April 14, 1907. The Mission Board continued its work until June 27, 1908, with seven baptized, and a total membership of forty-four. Most of those members have moved away, but others have moved in, so that with the accessions by baptism and letter we now have a total enrollment of more than seventy.

The organization is in good condition and, comparatively, the church is in a very encouraging way. It maintains a full line of services; besides Sunday-school, teachers' training class, and other Bible study classes. They have preached, in all, at sixteen different places, thus in a manner covering all this territory.



Winchester Churchhouse.

WINCHESTER.

The Winchester church embraces the territory west of the Boise meridian and from the Clearwater River southward to the forty-sixth parallel. It is an outgrowth of the Nezperce church.

The first members to settle in this territory were Bro. John Shuss and wife, Maggie Shuss, and Lottie Wilsey. The first services were held in 1901.

The segregation from the Winchester church and organization into a congregation were effected Feb. 17, 1911, with a mem-

bership of thirteen, including Bro. Jesse Walker, a minister, and Brethren J. S. Lehman and John Wilsey, deacons. There being at that time no ordained elder convenient in that part of Idaho, the newly-organized congregation called on a brother in Washington to preside.

The Sunday-school was soon organized and progressed very encouragingly. The membership now is nineteen and the Sunday-school is prospering.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE DISTRICT OF IDAHO AND WESTERN MONTANA

After thirty-five or more years of occupation of this great Northwest by some of the Brethren the church has gained a foothold which means much for the future of the Brotherhood.

It is hard for us to picture the intrepidity of those daring ones who encountered the austerity and deprivation necessary in taking this country for civilization—the state and the church. But they did it, and their record is kept in heaven.

A single family set out into the field, and years of isolation followed till others joined. Eventually a church was organized; but it enjoyed no organic association outside of itself for many more years. Thus, one after another, these feeble beginnings developed until they could so get in touch with each other as to form the greater organization—the District Meeting. In this way the District Meeting of Oregon, Washington and Idaho came into existence. She kept on growing until, in 1910, she found that both her territory and her great number and diversity of congregations were too much for the one organization successfully to handle. It was plain that three separate organizations of the kind, one for each State, would put more men into the great work of the church, and consequently do three times as much work and do it better. Consequently, a resolution was passed to segregate these three States from each other and ask Annual Meeting to grant them separate organizations.

Pursuant to this end the elders of Idaho met and organized the Elders' Meeting of Idaho and Western Montana. At this time they issued a call to the several congregations of their territory to send in delegates to the first District Meeting, set the time and place of meeting, and appointed a committee of three to prepare "Rules for the future guidance of District Meeting of Idaho and Western Montana." The committee was composed of A. I. Mow, J. H. Graybill and S. F. Brower.

Accordingly, Aug. 3, 1911, this first District Meeting convened in the Boise Valley church, and was called to order by Eld. L. H. Eby, moderator of the Elders' Meeting. He stated its purpose. Eld. L. E. Keltner, our member on the Standing Committee, announced the order of Annual Meeting permitting us to organize.

The roll call of the churches brought out thirteen delegates approved by the Elders' Meeting, and twelve churches. Five churches did not send delegates.

The meeting then proceeded to form the permanent organization, which chose Eld. L. H. Eby, Moderator, Eld. J. E. Shamberger, Reading Clerk, Eld. A. I. Mow, Writing Clerk. Then a season of devotions was engaged in.

First, the District Meeting ratified the Committee on Rules. The committee then reported what they had prepared, and the following were adopted as the constitution and rules of action of the District Meeting of Idaho:

RULES FOR DISTRICT MEETING OF CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN IN IDAHO AND MONTANA.

CONSTITUTION.

I. Name and Territory

1.—This District shall be known as the DISTRICT OF IDAHO AND WESTERN MONTANA.

2.—The DISTRICT OF IDAHO AND WESTERN MONTANA shall embrace all the territory of Idaho, and the western portion of Montana.

State District Line: A communication was received from Eld. J. E. Keller, of Enterprise, Mont., corresponding committee, "Relative to boundary line between the State District of North Dakota, Western Canada and Eastern Montana, and the State District of Idaho and Western Montana. We have decided, if agreeable with the latter, in favor of the crest of the Rocky Mountains to be the dividing line."

Answer: The State District of Idaho and Western Montana cheerfully accepts the line proposed by the State District of North Dakota, Western Canada and Eastern Montana.

3.—It shall include all the organized congregations at present within this territory; viz., Boise City, Boise Valley, Clearwater, Flathead Valley, Lost River, Madden View, Nampa, Nezperce, Payette Valley, Twin Falls, Weiser and Winchester; and any others which may hereafter be organized in this territory.

II. Organization.

1.—The organization shall consist of Moderator, Reading Clerk, Writing Clerk, Treasurer, Timekeeper, two delegates from each congregation, a Committee on Credentials, a Missionary Board, a Sunday-school and Christian Workers' Meeting Committee, a Ministerial Meeting and Bible School Committee, a Committee on Homes for Orphan Children, a Temperance Committee, and the Elders' Meeting.

III. Election and Appointment of Officers and Committees.

1.—The Moderator, Writing and Reading Clerks and Treasurer shall be elected by the majority of ballots cast by the delegates.

2.—The Timekeeper shall be appointed by the Moderator.

3.—The Committee on Credentials shall be appointed by the Elders' Meeting.

IV. Tenure of Office.

1.—The Moderator, Writing and Reading Clerks shall be elected at each annual meeting of the District; and shall be the officers of the District during the ensuing year, until their respective successors are elected. None of these officers shall succeed themselves in the same office. Only elders may be elected as Moderator. The clerkships are not necessarily confined to the ministry.

2.—The Treasurer shall be elected for a period of one year. Any faithful brother with good business tact may be elected as Treasurer.

3.—All the committees specified shall consist of three members, who shall be elected, one for one year, one for two years, and one for three; and thereafter, as their respective terms expire, their successors shall be elected for three years, except the Committee on Credentials. These are annually appointed by Elders' Meeting and are qualified by the following credentials:

Credential to District Meeting Idaho and Western Montana.

This is to certify that _____ and _____ are duly elected by the _____ congregation to represent her as delegate— at the District Meeting of the Church of the Brethren assembled at _____, Idaho, April _____, 191—.

We heartily endorse the faith and order of the Church of the Brethren, and pledge our loyalty to the Gospel, the regulations of Annual Meeting, and our own District Meeting. We are willing to counsel and be counseled for the upbuilding and maintaining of our beloved Brotherhood.

We do not use nor handle tobacco in any way.

We do not carry life insurance.

Signed, _____ and _____.

Provided, that in the first election of the Mission Board the Chairman shall be elected for three years; the Secretary for two years; the Treasurer for one year.

Provided, that any vacancy occurring in the Board by either death or moving away shall be supplied by the remaining members and the Moderator of District Meeting; their appointment to hold only till District Meeting convenes.

Provided, that the Mission Board may be composed of either officials or laity.

The Weiser church, assembled in council March 15, 1913, asks District Meeting to adopt the following method of selecting members on the District Mission Board:

Let nominations be made by the churches, and reported by the delegates to the elder body, who will discuss the fitness of the nominees and recommend two or three names to the delegate body for election.
(Signed) D. H. Holl, Clerk.

Answer: Paper read and passed.

Provided, that any member of the Mission Board, when his term expires, may be reelected.

Provided, that all expenses connected with the mission work shall be paid out of the mission fund.

It remained for each District Meeting to determine the levy per capita per annum which was fixed and continued to this writing at \$2 for Missions, 50 cents for District.

V. Disbursements from the District Treasury.

1.—Expenses of printing District Meeting Minutes, queries for District Meeting, of Annual Meeting Minutes, of delegate on Standing Committee, sent by District Meeting, of any fixtures pertaining to the District for their meetings, and any assessments made upon the District by the General Brotherhood are to be paid from the District Treasury.

Provided, that churches calling for committees for ordination or for settling other matters shall themselves pay the expenses of the same.

Provided, that this foregoing provision shall not debar weak churches or mission points from getting needed committees. In such cases the committee may decide for the District to pay any part or all of such expense.

VI. Authority and Method of Procedure.

The DISTRICT OF IDAHO AND WESTERN MONTANA herein declares and pledges her allegiance and faithful adherence to the councils of the General Brotherhood of the CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, as set forth and published in the Minutes of Annual Meeting.

1.—For the conduct of the District Meeting the Moderator shall preside according to "RULES OF GOVERNING," p. 10, R. M. of A. M.

2.—For rights and privileges she finds her authority in "DISTRICT MEETINGS," pp. 14-16, R. M. of A. M.

3.—For directing the faith and personal habits of individuals and the constituent churches she shall seek the councils of Annual Meeting.

4.—For Elders' Meeting and its functions see p. 70, R. M. Art. 16.

VII. Specific Conveniences.

1.—The names of all delegates and all the queries for District Meeting shall be in the hands of the District Clerk one month before District Meeting convenes. The Clerk shall have the queries printed and several

copies sent to the elders in the different congregations for distribution, and shall retain some for the use of District Meeting.

2.—Churches entertaining District Meeting may collect for meals as follows: Adults, twenty cents per single meal, or six meals for one dollar; children, between five and twelve years of age, fifteen cents per single meal, or eight meals for one dollar. All surplus resulting therefrom shall be turned over to the District Treasurer.

3.—Time for holding District Meeting.

Boise Valley church asks District Meeting to consider the last half of April as the proper time for holding District Meeting.

Answer: Passed.

COMMITTEES

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution there are five executive committees, who administer these five departments of church activity.

The District Meeting of 1912 considered and passed the following resolution:

Weiser church asks District Meeting to require of her several continuous committees and Boards, to present to District Meeting, for adoption, rules of action for their respective departments; and that those rules, when adopted, be printed and kept on file along with the rules for District Meeting.

THE MISSION BOARD



S. S. Neher, Treasurer.
Twin Falls, Idaho.

L. H. Eby, President.
Payette, Idaho.

D. Betts, Secretary.
Nampa, Idaho.

**BY-LAWS OF THE MISSION BOARD OF THE CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO AND
WESTERN MONTANA.**

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. The corporate name of this corporation shall be the Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren for the District of Idaho and Western Montana.

Section 2. The corporate seal of the corporation shall have engraved thereon the following words: "Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren" "Idaho."

ARTICLE II.

Section 1. The business of the association shall be to carry out the objects of the corporation as specified in its articles.

ARTICLE III.

Section 1. The corporate powers of this company shall be vested in a board of directors to be elected by the delegates as provided in the articles of incorporation, and the officers shall be a president, secretary and treasurer. The officers shall be elected by the board of directors at their first meeting after election, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and qualified.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. The regular meeting of the board of directors shall be held at the office of the association, the time and place of meeting to be designated by the call of the president; and special meetings may be called by the president or any two members of the board of directors by giving personal notice to the several members of the board, or by five days' notice in writing, the place of meeting to be specified in such notice.

Section 2. A majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and any action by the majority, although at an irregularly called meeting, if record thereof is assented to by the other member of the board in writing, shall always be as valid and effective in all respects as when passed by the board at a regularly called meeting.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to exercise and have supervision over all the affairs of the association; to direct the disbursement of all moneys; to purchase, sell, or otherwise acquire and dispose of, property, and in every particular to have full charge of the affairs of the association.

Section 4. The duties of the officers shall be such as are usual in the respective offices in a corporate way.

ARTICLE V.

Section 1. The books of the association, and such papers as may be placed on file, shall at all times during business hours be subject to the inspection of any of the directors or members, and the book of by-laws shall be kept in a separate book for that special purpose.

ARTICLE VI.

Section 1. The annual meeting of the corporation shall be held at the office of the corporation at such date as may be designated or fixed by the adjournment of the previous meeting. Special meetings of the corporation may be called by the board of directors by giving notice as required by statute for other corporations.

ARTICLE VII.

Section 1. Delegates selected in manner provided in the articles of incorporation shall constitute the membership at the annual meeting provided to be held.

ARTICLE VIII.

Section 1. No debts shall be contracted for the corporation except by the vote of the board of directors in favor of such indebtedness, and no salaries shall be paid to the directors, as such, but each director may have his expenses paid in connection with the discharge of his duties.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1. These by-laws may be changed, amended or revoked at any time by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates at an annual or special meeting; or, the power to make or amend by-laws may be, by such vote, delegated to the board of directors.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Of the Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren for the District of Idaho and Western Montana.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That we, L. H. Eby, David Betts and S. S. Neher, citizens of the United States, have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together, and by these presents do hereby associate ourselves together, for the purpose of forming a corporation under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Idaho, and we do hereby certify:

I.

That the corporate name and style of our said corporation is: The Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren for the District of Idaho and Western Montana.

II.

That the purposes for which this corporation is formed are:

1. To carry on general mission work in the State of Idaho, and elsewhere, in the various church forms.

To establish and maintain field and city workers.

2. To negotiate and receive funds and endowments and to take and hold securities, all in the carrying on and furthering the work of this association.

To build, lease, or otherwise obtain, churches and buildings to be used and disposed of by the board of directors under the by-laws.

3. To acquire by purchase, lease, or otherwise, such real estate as may be necessary and convenient for the carrying on of the business and objects of the association; that the title to all property so acquired and held, real or personal, shall be held, owned and controlled by the association, with full power in its board of directors to dispose of the same whenever, in their judgment, the interest of the association will be advanced thereby; and to purchase and otherwise acquire, sell and dispose of property from time to time. This corporation shall have power to mortgage, alienate or convey its real or personal property in the same manner as other private corporations, and its corporate power may be exercised in such manner as may be provided by its by-laws.

III.

The operations of our said corporation shall be carried on in the State of Idaho, and may extend its business to any other state or territory. The place where its principal business is to be transacted is Nampa, Idaho, and branch offices may be located at such places, within or without the State of Idaho, in manner as may from time to time be provided by the by-laws of the company.

IV.

The term for which our said corporation shall exist is fifty (50) years from and after the date of the certificate of incorporation issued by the Secretary of State.

V.

The number of its directors shall be three (3) and the names and residences of those elected are: David Betts, Nampa, Idaho, for one year; L. H. Eby, Payette, Idaho, for two years; and S. S. Neher, Twin Falls, Idaho, for three years; and that for the first year, and until their successors are elected or appointed, the officers of the corporation shall be as follows: L. H. Eby, president; David Betts, secretary; and S. S. Neher, treasurer. And it is hereby provided that one-third of the number of directors of this corporation is to serve for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years, and at each succeeding annual meeting of the members one-third of the directors shall be elected for the term of three years.

VI.

That pecuniary profit is not the object of this corporation, and there is no capital stock, but the corporation shall be composed of a membership, such membership to consist of individuals who are members of congregations of the Church of the Brethren within the district to be fixed by the by-laws in Idaho and Western Montana; and that for the purposes of this corporation the individuals who are members of each congregation within such district shall be entitled to two delegates for two hundred (200) members or less, and to one additional delegate when the membership exceeds two hundred (200), and to one additional delegate when the membership exceeds four hundred (400), and additional delegates in the same ratio of membership. All meetings of the membership shall be by delegates as above provided and conducted in manner provided by the by-laws.

The annual District Meeting for the election of officers and the transaction of such other matters as may properly come before such meeting shall be held at such time and at such place as may be determined by vote of the preceding annual District Meeting, and without call or notice other than such vote.

VII.

That the individuals named as directors herein were selected at an election for directors duly held prior to this incorporation; and that before such election was held notice of the time and place of holding such election was given by publication at least two weeks in the _____, being a newspaper published in the city of Payette, State of Idaho, and that pursuant to said notice, as published, an election was held at Payette, Idaho, on the 17th day of April, 1912, and that the majority of the members entitled to vote at such election by such vote elected the said David Betts director for one year; L. H. Eby for two years; and S. S. Neher for three years, for the corporation to be formed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said incorporators have hereunto set their hands this — day of September, 1912.

STATE OF IDAHO, {
County of _____ } SS.

On this — day of September, 1912, before me, _____, a Notary Public within and for said county in the state aforesaid, personally appeared L. H. Eby, personally known to me to be the person who signed the above and foregoing Articles of Incorporation as one of the incorporators thereof, and acknowledged to me that

he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal the day and year in this certificate above written.

My commission expires _____.

Notary Public.

STATE OF IDAHO, }
County of _____ } SS.

On this — day of September, 1912, before me, _____, a Notary Public within and for said county in the state aforesaid, personally appeared David Betts, personally known to me to be the person who signed the above and foregoing Articles of Incorporation as one of the incorporators therein, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal the day and year in this certificate above written.

My commission expires _____.

Notary Public.

STATE OF IDAHO, }
County of Twin Falls. } SS.

On the — day of September, 1912, before me, _____, a Notary Public in and for said county, in the state aforesaid, personally appeared S. S. Neher, personally known to me to be the person who signed the above and foregoing Articles of Incorporation as one of the incorporators therein, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal the day and year in this certificate above written.

My commission expires _____.

Notary Public.

STATE OF IDAHO, }
County of Canyon. } SS.

J. H. Graybill, being duly affirmed, says:

That he has read the above and foregoing Articles of Incorporation, particularly the part of said articles referring to the holding of an election, at which election he presided, and at which David Betts, L. H. Eby and S. S. Neher were duly elected directors of the Mission Board of The Church of the Brethren for the District of Idaho and Western

Montana, and that said persons and each of them were duly elected as directors to be named in the Articles of Incorporation and to serve as therein provided.

Subscribed and affirmed before me
this — day of September, 1912.

Notary Public.

STATE OF IDAHO, }
County of Twin Falls. } SS.

S. S. Neher, being duly affirmed, says:

That he has read the above and foregoing Articles of Incorporation, and particularly the part of said articles referring to an election, at which election I served as secretary, and at which David Betts, L. H. Eby and S. S. Neher were duly elected directors of the Mission Board of The Church of the Brethren for the District of Idaho and Western Montana, and that said persons and each of them were duly elected as directors to be named in the Articles of Incorporation and to serve as therein provided.

Subscribed and affirmed before me
this — day of September, 1912.

Notary Public.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION.

Domestic.

STATE OF IDAHO.

Department of State.

I, WILFRED L. GIFFORD, Secretary of State of the State of Idaho, do hereby certify that a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation of THE MISSION BOARD OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO AND WESTERN MONTANA, duly certified by the Recorder of Canyon County, to be a true copy of the original Articles, was filed in this office on the 16th day of November, A. D. One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve, and is duly recorded in Book "A-4" of Domestic Corporations, Records of the State of Idaho, which Articles contain the statement of facts required by law, to-wit:

FIRST, The name of the Corporation as aforesaid; SECOND, The purpose for which it was framed; THIRD, The place where its principal business is to be transacted; FOURTH, The term for which it is to exist; FIFTH, The number of its directors, or its trustees.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State. Done at Boise City, the Capital of Idaho, this 16th day of November in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve and of the Independence of the United States of America the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh.

GREAT SEAL
OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO.

Wilfred L. Gifford.
Secretary of State.

The Work of the Board.

The mission work of the new District of Idaho and Western Montana originated with the birth of the District and the election of the new Board. To start with, the Board was not only without funds, but was encumbered with a debt assumed from the old District, amounting to over \$1,500. During the following winter, however, the Board engaged Eld. A. I. Mow, of Weiser, to distribute tracts and religious literature along the line of the P. & I. N. Railroad throughout the valleys up the Weiser, and to follow up with preaching where the interest seemed to justify. In this way a number of preaching points, most of them with a few members, have been started. At one of these points now there are a minister and a deacon, besides a dozen other members. There is a good prospect and a vigorous demand for an organization.

Other points are in a good, growing condition. It was about the same time that Bro. R. M. Shock, of Wendell, distributed tracts covering the town. But up to this time little or nothing is manifest from it.

The District Meeting of April 18, 1912, passed the following resolution:

Be it recommended, by the Mission Board, to the District Meeting of Idaho and Western Montana, that, whereas the railroads of our State offer an annual pass to a traveling missionary, we at this meeting proceed to secure such worker for the ensuing year, who shall be called the District Church and Sunday-school Missionary, whose duty shall be to give his entire time for the furtherance of the Gospel in our District, by visiting such points of need as may be deemed wise in the judgment of both the District Mission Board and the missionary, also by doing house visitation, preaching, etc., as will be in full accord with the Mission Board. Such worker to be in full harmony with the District Mission Board and to give to the Board an itemized report of the work done at close of each month.

The Board finally was enabled, in February, 1913, to secure Eld. Chas. M. Yearout for this work. Under the direction of the Board he located at Coeur d'Alene, in the northern portion of Idaho. Here were several members, who for a long time had been isolated, and there were some calls for baptism. From this point Bro. Yearout also supplied services at Moscow, where at one time had been a strong and well-working, organized congregation; but in more recent years (1907) it was disorganized, and but few members remained. This point has now grown, till at present there is a membership of twenty-five, and a request for an organization.



Elder A. I. Mow.

He located and preached the first sermons in the bounds of the Weiser church. Served her as minister, preaching in sixteen different localities in their territory. Serving the Mission Board on the field since the organization of the District, and is the editor of this booklet.



Elder Charles M. Yearout,

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Serving in the employ of the District Mission Board north of the middle of the State. In his two years' labor the work is greatly enlivened and prosperous.

The work at Boise City had been started by members moving in, and was for a time under the management of the old Board. At the time of our organization it had been given up. It was given some attention by us, but was finally wholly discontinued and disorganized.

Now, after less than three years, we have work well started in these two wide-apart sections. Bro. Yearout is vigorously pressing on in the north. Bro. Mow, having resigned his work

in the southern end, the Board has let it to the care of Bro. Sherman Clapper, who is assisted by Bro. E. E. Frantz. These, we trust, will faithfully and successfully carry on the work so well begun.

Under the blessing of God the Board has collected, the first year (8.5 months), \$1,124.91. The second year (12 months) we received \$1,366.82, and besides carrying on the work we have started we were able to pay off \$800 indebtedness left us by the old District.

We can not at this writing give the amount of receipts for the year just closed; but the Board has cash on hand amounting to something over \$1,700.

So we feel encouraged to press out into the work and "fill up the breaches." And now one member of the Board, Bro. S. S. Neher, of Twin Falls, has been appointed by the District Meeting as Field Missionary and Evangelist, which we are sure will greatly encourage and push forward the work. We, therefore, hope to see the work, so humbly started, grow and prosper to the glory of God.

David Betts, Secretary of Board.

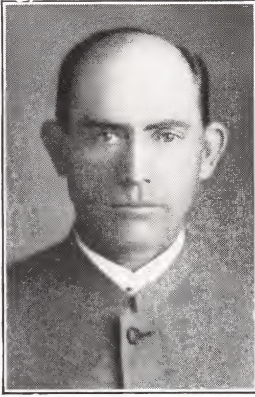
THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL AND CHRISTIAN WORKERS' MEETING BOARD.

The Sunday-school work being of equal importance with the mission work of the church, a constitutional committee of three was created to administer the Sunday-school department of church work in the District. The department is almost infinite in importance and the field is unlimited.

The constitution provides that there shall be a Sunday-school and Christian Workers' Meeting Committee. At the first election one shall be elected for three years, one for two years, and one for one year. Thereafter one member's term expires each year and his successor is elected for three years. Thus there is a continuous committee, with experienced members.

Rules Governing Sunday-School and Christian Workers' Committee.

- 1.—Collecting the statistics of all the schools in the District.
- 2.—Securing a competent person to visit all schools in the District and Christian Workers' Societies, at least once a year, for the



E. B. Sargent, Pres.
Payette, Idaho.



Jennie S. Brower, Sec.
Meridian, Idaho.



C. A. Williams, Treas.
Bowmont, Idaho.

purpose of strengthening schools and societies already organized, and also help them organize new ones; such worker to take collections in each school to carry on the work.

3.—To prepare programs for Sunday-school and Christian Workers' Meetings in connection with District Meeting.

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL MEETING OF SOUTHERN IDAHO.

Prior to the segregation and organization of the District there was a request made of the old District Meeting for an authorized Sunday-school meeting. This was granted, and a committee was appointed to frame a constitution and by-laws on which such meeting could organize. The following rules were adopted and the meeting organized:

RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE BRETHREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

I. Name.

This meeting shall be known as Brethren's Sunday-school Convention of Southern Idaho.

II. Time.

The time of meeting shall be annually, on Thanksgiving Day.

III. Object.

It shall be the aim of this convention to encourage Sunday-school work in all its phases and aims, by considering, in discussion, lectures, and model presentation the aims, methods, problems and possibilities of the Sunday-school.

IV. Organization.

This organization shall consist of President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Timekeeper, the representative delegates sent by the respective Sunday-schools and a Program Committee.

To Effect the Organization:

(a) The President and the Secretary of the last preceding meeting shall act as Temporary President and Secretary until the new organization is formed. Provided, that in case the President or Vice-president are absent the Chairman of the Program Committee shall proceed to effect the organization.

(b) The President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the majority of ballots cast by the delegates present.

(c) Any minister, Sunday-school worker or teacher of the Church of the Brethren may be chosen as President, as Vice-president.

(d) Any member in good standing may be Secretary or Treasurer.

(e) As soon as these officers are elected they shall enter upon their respective duties. The President shall then proceed to appoint the Timekeeper and enroll the delegates.

V. The Program.

1.—The program, prepared by a committee of three, elected by ballot of the delegates at the last preceding meeting, shall then be faithfully rendered.

2.—Should any speakers on the program be absent, the committee which prepared the program shall supply the vacancy.

3.—Leading speakers may have ten minutes; succeeding ones five minutes. The general meeting may, however, extend or diminish the time of speakers when desired.

4.—The Gleaner shall be put on program by Program Committee.

VI. Business Session.

1.—Unfinished business.

2.—The delegates report the status of their respective schools.

3.—The delegates shall ballot for a Program Committee; nominations received from the meeting.

4.—The delegates consider calls for future meetings.

5.—The Treasurer shall give his report.

6.—The President will call for any business pertaining to the good of the organization.

These rules of regulation may be changed in any point by the vote of two-thirds of the members in any regular meeting.

This organization, at the time District Meeting was organized, was overlooked and was not removed. Therefore, while the District Meeting Committee holds priority in authority, and is charged with executing the Sunday-school department, this meeting continues to work as provided by its constitution. There is no conflict, as the convention meets annually on Thanksgiving and the District Meeting Committee annually at District Meeting in April. Both add greatly to the encouragement and growth of Sunday-school earnestness and success.

CHRISTIAN WORKERS' MEETING.

The Christian Workers' Meeting work has not developed greatly up to the present. It is under the auspices of this same committee, who have not yet seen their way open to crowd much more into this work than can be done in the usual annual program of exercises at time of District Meeting. In the District's constitutional provision there is a hope betrayed that, with this organized push behind them, these meetings could be made a living power in effecting the spiritual growth of the younger people and those who associate with them.

MINISTERIAL MEETING AND BIBLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

This might very properly be called the *educational department* of the District, and is of very great importance. It could be made the leading agent of training, inspiration and consecration. It should stimulate an urgency for more and better work, and will be found an indispensable helper in every other department of church administration.

Committee: L. E. Keltner, President, Weiser; J. E. Shamberger, Secretary, Payette; A. L. Gorham, Treasurer, Payette.

The following rules are their by-laws:

Ministerial Committee Report.

- 1.—Duty to prepare programs each year.
- 2.—To render the same at District Meeting, asking assistance as they desire.



J. E. Shamberger, Sec.
Payette, Idaho.

3.—To work in conjunction with the churches and also the Mission Board in ministerial work to be encouraged or done in the District.

4.—That the funds for this work be provided for by collections at District Meeting, and if not sufficient, the Mission Board shall lend their assistance as their wisdom may guide them.

Bible School Committee Report.

1.—To have the right to locate and maintain a permanent place for Bible School, as soon as wisdom may dictate.

2.—To encourage and assist in the holding of Bible Institutes in the local congregations throughout the District.

3.—To encourage and assist in holding teacher-training classes to be held throughout the District, as time, place and opportunity may be presented.

4.—That the literature for Bible school work shall be decided upon by the instructors and the committee.

5.—The work of this committee shall be supported in this school work by District Meeting, the Mission Board and local churches.



T. J. Beckwith.
Payette, Idaho.



A. L. Gorham, Treas.
Payette, Idaho.

C. Fahrney, Pres.
Twin Falls, Idaho.

COMMITTEE ON HOMES FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

Constitution of the Orphans' Home Finding Society of the Church of the Brethren of the State of Idaho.

Section First.

1.—The object of this society is to take charge of orphan and dependent children, and to place them into good family homes.

2.—The Orphans' Home Finding Society is composed of all the members of the Church of the Brethren of the Idaho State District. Others who assist in the work are honorary members.

3.—The voting power of this society shall be delegates from the several local churches which constitute the District Conference Meeting.

4.—The executive power shall be vested in a Board of three Directors, termed President, Secretary and Treasurer.

5.—The members of this Board shall be elected as follows: The three officers of the Board with the elders of the District shall nominate two or more suitable brethren or sisters for each vacancy, and the delegates shall elect by ballot one of this number. The term of office shall be for three years, but they shall be so elected that one vacancy occurs each year.

Section Second.

1.—It shall be the duty of the President to call a meeting of the Board as often as he deems it necessary, or when requested by the

other members of the Board. He shall preside over these meetings, and also over the yearly meeting held at the time of District Meeting.

2.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a faithful and complete account of all meetings of the Board and of all business transacted by them.

3.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a correct account of all moneys paid into the treasury, all money paid out, as well as to hold in trust all funds.

4.—It shall be the duty of the Board to select some one to act as Manager, who shall carry on the active work of the Society. The Board shall direct and oversee the work.

5.—The Board shall use a paper published in Oklahoma known as "Everybody's Friend," for the purpose of advertising the work, of soliciting means, and of creating sentiment in its favor.

Section Third.

1.—It shall be the duty of the Manager to gather orphan and homeless children from all sources, providing the parent or guardian signs away all rights to the child. These children shall be provided good temporary homes until they can be placed in carefully selected families.

2.—The Manager shall place these children in good moral families who will promise to treat them properly, send them to school and take them to church and Sunday-school. They shall first be placed on three months' trial, which time may be extended at the discretion of the Manager. All expenses of keeping the child shall be borne by the family that has it on trial.

3.—The Manager shall make out the permanent papers for either adoption or legal contract, when the family want to keep the child if he is satisfied that it will be a good home.

4.—The Manager shall visit each child placed in a family at least once a year until he is satisfied that it has a good home. If it has not got the right kind of a home he shall take it away, even after it has been adopted or taken on legal contract.

5.—The Manager shall from time to time visit the local churches as well as other localities, to explain the work, solicit donations, look out homes for children and appoint suitable persons to assist in the work.

6.—The Manager shall keep a strict account of the time employed in the work, of expenses incurred, and of money taken in, and report to the Board as often as required. He shall be paid out of the treasury for time and expenses.

By-Laws.

1.—Only normal children under fourteen years of age shall be taken in charge by the Manager, unless a family shall specially agree to take an older, a sickly or a crippled child.

2.—Children shall be placed only with people of good morals, where they will be taught the Bible used by Protestant Christians.

3.—When a vacancy occurs on the Board, by death or otherwise, the

remaining members shall select one to fill the vacancy until the next District Meeting.

4.—The Board shall economically use the funds collected, for the saving of children, but shall not contract any debts for the Orphans' Home Finding Society.

This Constitution was accepted by District Meeting of 1913.

Certificate of Incorporation (Domestic), State of Idaho, Department of State.

I, Wilfred L. Gifford, Secretary of State of the State of Idaho, do hereby certify that a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation of "The Orphans' Home Finding Society of the Church of the Brethren of Idaho," duly certified by the recorder of Canyon County, to be a true copy of the original articles, was filed in this office on the 13th day of September, A. D., One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve, and is duly recorded in Book "A-4" of Domestic Corporations, Records of the State of Idaho, which articles contain the statement of facts required by law, to wit:

First, the name of the corporation as aforesaid; second, the purpose for which it was framed; third, the place where its principal business is to be transacted; fourth, the term for which it is to exist; fifth, the number of its directors, or its trustees.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the great seal of the State. Done at Boise City, the capital of Idaho, this 13th day of September, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve and of the Independence of the United States of America the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh.

Wilfred L. Gifford,
Secretary of State.

(SEAL)

THE TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

In organizing the new District the members of the organization manifested a laudable concern for the sobriety of the State, and put themselves on record for the advancement of temperance, in an unmistakable way, by the constitutional provision of a committee to represent the church's tenets and sentiments regarding the liquor traffic. This was a committee of three; viz., Eld. L. E. Keltner, President; Eld. Fred A. Flora, Secretary; Eld. J. F. Ullery, Treasurer.

These men have labored to induce the sentiment to help the Anti-Saloon work of the State. Consequently the membership helped heroically to vote the State dry, and all now have the joy of living undisturbed by the saloon and its evil work. At every District Meeting they brought out thrilling programs for temperance.

THE ELDERS OF IDAHO.

At the time of the segregation of Idaho twelve organized congregations entered into the new State District of Idaho and Western Montana. There were then fourteen ordained elders included in the territory; viz., S. F. Brower, John Early, L. H. Eby, C. Fahrney, J. H. Graybill, H. A. Kauffman, L. E. Keltner, John Lesh, A. I. Mow, J. C. Neher, A. P. Peterson, J. E. Shamberger, J. B. Shank, D. J. Wampler.

The first meeting of the elders was convened, by an informal call, at the home of Eld. S. F. Brower. Here their first organization was effected by choosing L. H. Eby to be Moderator and A. I. Mow to be Clerk.

This meeting issued the call to the churches to send in delegates, set the time and place for the first District Meeting, and appointed "a committee of three to prepare rules for the future guidance of District Meeting of Idaho and Western Montana."

Committee: A. I. Mow, J. H. Graybill, S. F. Brower.

Since their organization these elders have ordained to the eldership J. F. Ullery, B. J. Fike and Fred A. Flora.

Of the original number, Early, Brower, Peterson, Shank and ——— have died.

J. C. Neher withdrew from the meeting.

J. H. Graybill and A. I. Mow moved away.

Chas. M. Yearout and J. L. Thomas have moved in.

This leaves the elder-body at eleven.

This will doubtless soon be increased, as several other ordinations are provided for.

Although the District was new, yet the work was not wholly without its seriousness. Several of the members of the meeting had behind them a number of years of experience, and were measurably prepared to manage the work of the District. The association of these men, who were thrown together from various places, has been almost without exception most agreeable and unanimous. This fact afforded a decided strength, in which all the work progressed splendidly. "Like priest, like people" is still patent. No religious organization is stronger than its leading men; for, just as the superstition, avarice, self-aggrandizement and egotism of the clergy feed upon the ignorance and gullibility of the people, so do the people draw their conceptions of Christian equity, Divine Presence, consecration, and devotion from their church leaders.

